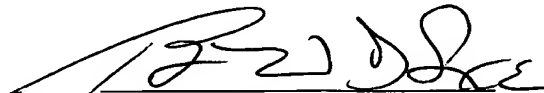


**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendment to Claim 42 be entered in order to avoid this application incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

August 6, 2001  
Date



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

42. (Amended) The assay method as claimed in [claims 22 and 36] claim 22 wherein, the assay results is obtained within 3 to 10 minutes.